

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



June 2011

Ebon Atoll: The Country that Never Was



MEETING PROGRAM:
VK0IR DVD OF THE 1997 DXPEDITION TO HEARD IS-
LAND: "OUTPOST AT THE EDGE"

MEETING NOTICE:
JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER
AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD
WEDNESDAY MAY 25 , 2011
SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.
MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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The Prez Sez

Gayle Olson K6GO



It is hard to believe that another month has gone by. This month I thought I would like to share some interesting information that I read about Samuel Morse, and comment on some information we have heard from our ham friends down south.

Samuel Finley Breese Morse is greatly revered by our ham community. While in PJ2-land I was reading a book by Kee Malesky called *All Facts Considered*. In it there is a section about Morse. He originally studied in England to be an artist. When he returned to the United States he was a portrait painter; but painting did not pay the bills. He turned to chemistry and electricity, and this led to his working with others to develop the Code.

Facts which are not usually covered are Morse's views on some social issues of the time. He ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of New York City on an anti-immigrant party ticket. He was primarily anti-Catholic. He referred to Catholics as "mentally neglected". In addition, Morse was pro-slavery. He believed that divine direction resulted in happy homes if slaves were there. Guess if we scratch deeply enough, we can all become surprised.

A few months ago some of our ham neighbors from Tijuana were both visiting our club and were the evening's panel discussion. The presentation went so well, they were voted in as honorary members of our club.

Juan Tellez, XE2SI, an official with Mexico's FMRE, has advised us of some good news. Apparently the past Mexico DXpedition to an island with the call of 4A4A helped to resolve some issues. Several Mexican amateurs apparently pushed to complain that 4A4A had only one Mexican amateur in the group of 10, and that the issued call sign was not to their liking. As they told us at our meeting, there is no such requirement of 51% Mexican amateur participation. Juan also informs us that the concept of reciprocal licensing is moving forward along with many new proposals from CofeTel with FMRE input, via Mexico's congress.

Our fellow hams from Tijuana are proving to be true to their word regarding the issues we discussed that evening. Bravo for them.

73,

Gayle

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

Treasurers Report

Leon Helms, N6VS



Treasurers Report

Bank Balance as of April 1, 2011	\$4,952.15
Income:	00.00
Expenses:	00.00
Ending balance April 29, 2011	4,952.15
Petty cash	20.00
Total club funds	\$4,972.15
Legal fund:	20.25
Shirt and hat sales:	367.53

(Both of these balances are included in the bank balance, but a separate accounting is maintained.)

San Diego DX Club Meeting Minutes

The San Diego DX Club held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 2011 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Aero Drive at Murphy Canyon Road.

Vice president Dick, K6GAK called the meeting to order at 6:30. The evenings program was our DX Gals telling of their trip to PJ2W. By all measures it was a successful DXpedition, with over 5400 Q's in the log, no injuries or damage and a good time had by all.

After a short break, the president assumed control of the meeting. Congratulations were offered to N6ERD, upon his accumulation of 100 confirmations and thereby he is now a full member. There were no committee reports.

K6AM, John presented the top 10 with Jim W6YA occupying the top spots on both 12 (317) and 17 (335).

Under old business, Wayne NN6R reported that there has been no orders for shirts or hats recently, which may put us in danger of losing our quantity discounts.

As new business Ron, N0RR introduced a notion to contribute \$100 to the FJ/OH2YL DXpedition. The second was provided by Ron N6XT. After a brief discussion NORR withdrew the motion and the request was referred to the Board of Directors in accordance with established procedure.

Harry W6YOO and Leon N6VS reported the election results from the SANDARC meeting. Congratulations to Joe N6SIX (Vice Chairman) and Robert K16SBL (Secretary) on their new positions.

35 members and guests were present.

The DX Roundtable was lively as usual with members reporting their success (or lack thereof) in QSOing the rare ones, in addition to observations on propagation and station activities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon, N6VS secretary/treasurer

The SDDXC Top 10

John, K6AM



TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 17 METERS

5/11	5/10	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	335	+4
2.	2.	K6AM	40	319	324	328	+3
3.	3.	N6ND	40	224	226	323	+4
4.	4.	N7CW	40	251	251	309	-
5.	5.	K6TQ	40	306	306	306	-
6.	6	N6CW	25	?	188	285	-
7.	9.	K0XB	39	264	266	284	+23
8.	7.	K6XT	40	131	131	269	-
9.	8.	W6YOO	37	268	268	268	-
10.	-.	W6YI	38	169	171	255	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 METERS

5/11	5/10	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	317	+5
2.	3.	N6ND	40	193	195	308	+4
3.	2.	K6AM	40	299	304	307	+1
4.	4.	K6TQ	38	279	279	279	-
5.	5.	N7CW	39	197	197	266	-
6.	6.	N6CW	39	?	180	262	-
7.	8.	W6YOO	36	219	219	219	-
8.	9.	K6XT	40	128	128	219	-
9.	-.	W6YI	33	98	99	166	NEW
10.	-.	K0XB	33	125	127	143	NEW

All the reports this time included the new PJ counters pushing the totals up somewhat in tandem. On 17, Rick, K0XB heads back to Minn. with 23 new ones strapped to his luggage rack. On 12 meters, Rick, N6ND edges out the long time second place holder who is still waiting for the QRN to let up so he can work some PJ's on 12. As the new cycle dawns, these bands are starting to show some life. There were a few EU openings on 12 in the past month or so. 17 remains a very viable band and should continue to get much better in the years to come.

Both of these lists are much easier to break into than the other bands. If you're not playing the WARC bands, you're missing a chance to experience the thrill of working a new one several times every month. The little Cushcraft WARC dipole is all you need to get started. The newer Force 12 Antennas work on 12 and 17 with a couple dB of gain as well.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 160 meters, RTTY and band-countries. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

73, John, K6AM



Cover Story: Ebon Atoll: The Country that Never Was

By: Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

January 1966 saw the following announcement in *QST Magazine*:

Announcement is hereby made of three additions to the ARRL Countries List. The additions are as follows: *Sprattly Islands*, *Ebon Atoll* and *Cormoran Reef*.

Sprattly Islands is territory with historic claims by four different countries but territory in the possession of no one country. This territory is located approximately 775 miles northeast of Singapore in the South China Sea.

Ebon Atoll is located in the Marshall Islands group at 167 degrees East and 4 degrees North. Confirmations for operation from Ebon Atoll made under permission from either Ecuador or the U.N. Trust Territory will be accepted for credit.

Cormoran Reef is located in the Western Caroline group at 134 degrees East and 8 degrees North. Operations from Cormoran Reef made under permission from either Costa Rica or the U.N. Trust Territory will be accepted for credit.

Confirmations for contacts with all three of these additions may be submitted for DXCC credit starting March 1, 1966. Confirmations received for these listings before March 1, 1966 will be returned without credit.

How cool was that? Three all-time new ones for the Deserving! I'll bet everyone reading this story has credit for the Sprattly Islands, but would everyone having a valid counter for Ebon Atoll or Cormoran Reef please raise their hands?

Well, the DXCC rules were different in 1966 and hence lies this month's cover story.

1966 saw the notorious (infamous?) Don Miller, W9WNV, plotting another DXpedition to yet another new one with Chuck Swain, K7LMU. At about the same time, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and his wife Iris, W6QL, had decided to activate Ebon Atoll as an all-time new one - and we have the makings of a feud.

The details are shown in "DXCC Notes" extracted from the December 1966 edition of *QST Magazine*.



Essentially, because of unsubstantiated claims obtained from the Ecuadorian authorities, the ARRL determined that Ebon Atoll was not under sovereign control of the coun-

try of Ecuador and Ebon Atoll was, in fact, simply part of the Marshall Islands, part of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific.

What were those guys thinking back then? Check out Google Earth and see in an instant that Ebon Atoll is at least half a world away from Ecuador.

So no one won the New Country prize for Ebon Atoll. It became, along with Cormoran Reef, a country that never was.

DXCC NOTES

Reference is made to the DXCC Note, page 90, January 1966 *QST*. Announcement was made therein of the addition to the countries list of Ebon Atoll (HC) and Cormoran Reef (TI). The action was based primarily on authorizations issued by recognized representatives of the Ecuadorian and Costa Rican governments. Information developed subsequently indicates that the named countries claim no jurisdiction and that the authorizations were invalid. Accordingly, there was no choice but to revoke the earlier action and delete the two locations from the countries list.

Because of the unusual circumstances surrounding this activity, a more detailed explanation is in order.

In the summer of 1965, Charles W. Swain, K7LMU, and Donald A. Miller, W9WNV, among others, were planning a DXpedition to the South Pacific. They noted that some maps (e.g., Rand McNally 1963) showed Cormoran Reef as under the jurisdiction of Costa Rica and Ebon Atoll as under the jurisdiction of Ecuador. On July 25, 1965, in a letter to Swain, the Consul of Costa Rica in Los Angeles authorized operation on Cormoran using the call K7LMU/TI9C, provided the amateur radio rules of Costa Rica were observed. On July 26, 1965, by a similar letter, the Consul of Ecuador in Los Angeles authorized operation on Ebon using the call K7LMU/HC8E, adding, "Since this is sovereign territory of Ecuador, you will abide by the regulations of amateur radio in Ecuador during your operation."

Copies of the letters were mailed by the amateurs involved to the Federal Communications Commission with the request that, if acceptable, they be forwarded to the ARRL Awards Committee. Upon receipt of the letters from FCC, the Committee considered all information then available, including the maps and the copies of authorizations from the named consuls. The Committee particularly noted the statement that the consulates had contacted Quito and San Jose, respectively, to obtain operating permission. The Committee thereupon acted to add the two islands to the countries list, and announced the action in January 1966 *QST*. Based on this action, the DXpedition plans were completed and several thousands of amateurs were provided with new-country contacts.

Subsequently, it was determined that the maps relied upon were inaccurate, that the consuls had mistakenly issued the authorizations, that they had not checked with their home administrations as claimed, that the two areas are actually within the United Nations Trust territory and under United States Administration. After learning of these most unfortunate errors, the Awards Committee reluctantly concluded that Cormoran Reef and Ebon Atoll do not meet the criteria for separate status recognition and that they must be withdrawn from the list. To rule otherwise would have resulted in lowering the stature of the countries list. Hq. deeply regrets no credit can be given to those who spent many hours attempting contacts on the basis of the original announcement.

The ARRL Executive Committee, at its late-September meeting, was in receipt of a request from W9WNV to review the action of the Awards Committee. After extensive discussion, the Executive Committee found no basis on which to remand the question to the Awards Committee.

In view of numerous requests for clarification on what country confirmations from KX6SZ/Ebon might be claimed for, and inasmuch as Ebon has been shown to be part of the Marshall Islands (KX6), DXCC credits for KX6SZ/Ebon confirmations may be claimed for Marshall Islands only.

73, Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

Why the June 2011 SDDXC Bulletin is Late

By: Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

Well, I missed the June 2011 SDDXC Bulletin publication deadline. I normally put the Bulletin together the weekend before the meeting, but this month something unexpected and bad intervened, making the Bulletin late. Here's the story:

On Friday the 20th, I went to my doctor in Rancho Bernardo with my left foot swollen and red. The doctor sent me to the emergency room at the Kaiser Permanente facility on Mission Gorge Road where I had surgery within hours. I had a bone infection (Osteomyelitis) that I later learned had been brewing for 22 years. It reached a critical mass on the 20th.

The opening for the bacteria to attack my bone started with bunion surgery that was performed in 1989. The surgeon came back the day following the surgery with several of his colleagues in tow so they could see the "micro channel" that had been allowing the nasty outside bacteria to reach a bone in my big toe for all these years. There the bacteria grew, dissolving the bone and causing all other kinds of mischief.

The surgeon originally expected to have to amputate my big toe because of the extensive involvement of the infection. I signed the authorization before going into surgery. Luckily, amputation was not required so I can still count up to 20.

The surgery – and especially the anesthesia – blew me away. The anesthesiologist used Propofol, the same drug that did Michael Jackson in. Michael's problem appeared to have been incompetent monitoring by his doctor (apparently, he had been going to sleep using Propofol for 10 years without incident before changing doctors.)

I was wide awake during the entire procedure. No "count down from 10", no recovery time, no loss of consciousness and no pain. Cool stuff.

After the emergency surgery, I spent time in bed getting a continuous intravenous dose of a powerful wide-spectrum antibiotic (Vancomycin) and other drugs. On Wednesday night, I had a second surgery to reconstruct my foot. More antibiotic drips followed as did the insertion of a catheter (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter) into my right shoulder through which the antibiotic drip could continue at home. I got home late Sunday.

The doctors (surgeon and infectious disease specialist) expect me to be back to 100% after a few months of healing.

My sister-in-law was visiting us from Florida on Monday morning. Her husband holds several patents on medical pumping devices, so she knew he would be interested in the intervenous anti-infectious drug delivery system with which I came home from the hospital yesterday. She took pictures with her digital camera and they may show up on the internet when she gets back to Florida. No surgical pictures, however, poor taste (but who knows what may show up on Facebook?)

Basically, I am attached to a pump that releases liquid penicillin into a catheter for 30 minutes every 4 hours. In earlier days, before portable, programmable medicine delivery systems, I would have been looking forward to up to six weeks longer in the hospital to get rid of this infection. Good deal all around because the hospital saves money by kicking me out early and good for me because I can relax and recuperate in the comfort of my own home. I will be tethered to the machine for two to six weeks.



Basically, the machine is a programmable fluid pump that releases a controlled amount of medicine into my catheter every four hours. It's made by a company in the Minneapolis area. It's battery powered with a stylish (not really) carrying case. The medicine is updated every 24 hours by a visiting nurse. I have a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) which is a very fine tube that was inserted through my upper right arm, through a vein and pushed close to my heart.

I was able to watch the catheter being inserted and manipulated on the ultrasound the nurse was using. It was like a GPS for the body. Cool. The medicine of choice is the old-fashioned but still potent penicillin. I had thought I had an allergy to penicillin because I had an allergic reaction to it as part of a dentist's visit 50 years ago, but whatever sensitivity I may have had is now gone. Prior to settling on penicillin, the infectious disease specialists used Zosyr, Vancomycin, Ansaf (I think this may be an acronym, not the name of the drug itself) and Oxicillin. Once they had cultured the bacteria, they knew what to shoot for.

Still amazing to me is that this whole incident started 22 years ago in Libertyville where I had bunion surgery. That's what left me open to the infection. It took all that time to reach critical mass. So for me, life is still far from normal, but with the XYL's care, I will be able to function. Right now, I'm optimistic about regaining 100% functionality. Prayers and kind thoughts gratefully accepted ;-).

73, Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

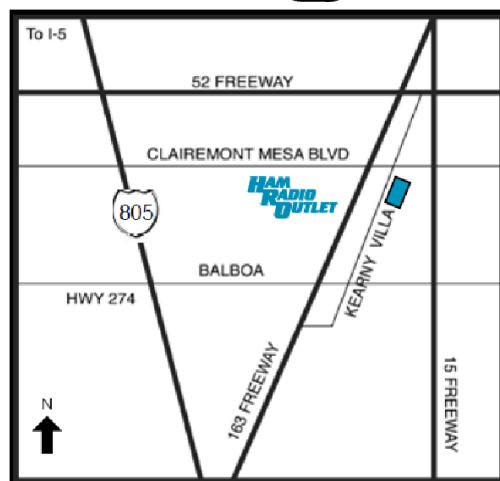
June 2011 Contests

Contest	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
SEANET	4-Jun	1200Z	5-Jun	1200Z
All Asian DX Contest, CW	18-Jun	0000Z	19-Jun	2400Z
ARRL Field Day	25-Jun	1800Z	26-Jun	2100Z



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